

Grand Canyon National Park
The official newspaper

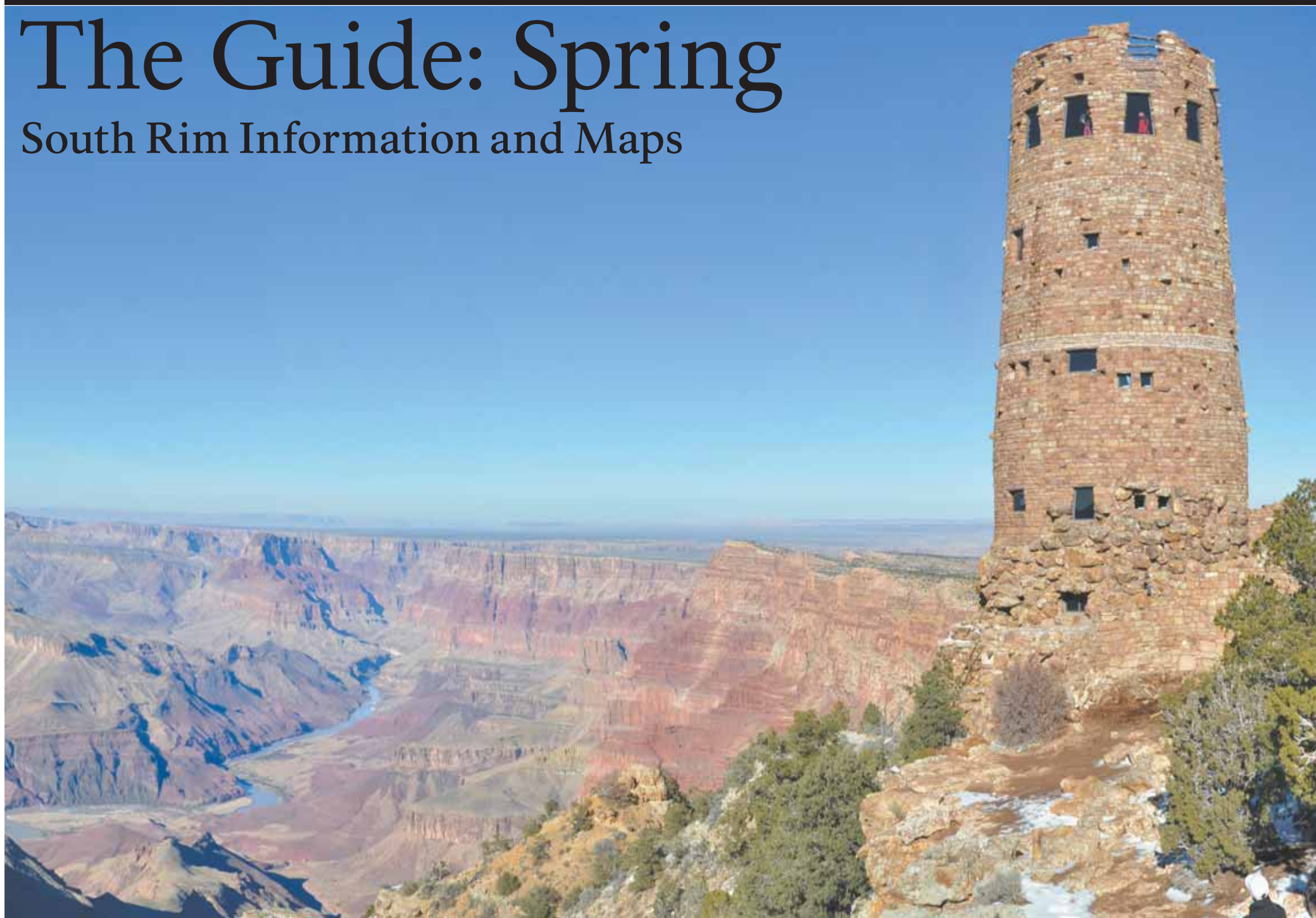
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



March 1, 2015 to
May 20, 2015

The Guide: Spring

South Rim Information and Maps





How much time do you have?

1–2 hours

- *Walk* five minutes from Grand Canyon Visitor Center to Mather Point to see Grand Canyon. Continue along the Rim Trail as time allows.
- *Ride* the Kaibab/Rim Route (orange) shuttle bus to view Grand Canyon.
- *Explore* exhibits at Grand Canyon Visitor Center and see the park movie, *A Journey of Wonder*.

2–4 hours

- *Attend* a park ranger program.
- *Walk* 2.4 miles (3.9 km) from Grand Canyon Visitor Center to South Kaibab Trailhead and ride the Kaibab/Rim Route (orange) shuttle bus back.
- *Hike* into Grand Canyon along Bright Angel Trail to the Lower Tunnel.

All Day

- *Drive the 25-mile (40 km)* Desert View Drive. Stop at viewpoints, learn about ancestral Puebloan people at Tusayan Museum, and visit the historic Desert View Watchtower (above).
- *Pick up* and complete a Junior Ranger booklet from any park visitor center.
- *Hike* into Grand Canyon on the South Kaibab Trail to Cedar Ridge or prepare for a longer day hike on the Bright Angel Trail.

Multiple Days

- *Hike* 7.8 miles (12.6 km) on the Rim Trail from the Village to Hermits Rest and return via the Hermits Rest Route (red) shuttle bus
- *Bicycle* the Greenway Trail
- Explore Grand Canyon's rich history in Verkamp's Visitor Center, Kolb Studio, and the Bright Angel History Room at Bright Angel Lodge.



Emergencies

Dial 911 or from hotel rooms dial 9-911

North Country Grand Canyon Clinic

March 1 to April 14, 8 am–5 pm, Monday to Friday; April 16 to May 20, 8 am–6 pm, daily; 928-638-2551

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If parking is full at Grand Canyon Visitor Center, use lots A, B, C, or D in the Village. See map on pages 4–5.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Welcome to Grand Canyon National Park!

Visiting places like Grand Canyon offers experiences and

exposures to environments completely different from those of our everyday lives. A trip to Grand Canyon can be memorable and life changing. One of my goals is for you to have a safe and unforgettable experience, but when you are away from home you may not always be aware of your surroundings and the risks they pose.

This guide is a great way to get started. In it, you will find information about visitor services and park ranger programs, as well as a map and information about how to use the *free* shuttle buses. You will also find advice about seasonal conditions and how to stay safe during your visit.

The visitor centers are a terrific next step. They offer opportunities to ask questions of our knowledgeable park rangers and volunteers. Stop by Grand Canyon Visitor Center for an overview of the park. Learn how Grand Canyon formed at Yavapai Geology Museum. Explore Grand Canyon's human history at Tusayan Museum and Ruin or Verkamp's Visitor Center. Be inspired by art or photography at Kolb Studio. If you plan to hike, stop by the Backcountry Information Center for advice.

I hope your interest does not end when you leave Grand Canyon National Park. We face many challenges and I encourage you to stay involved. You can track issues and provide comments at parkplanning.nps.gov. You can learn about park management at nps.gov/grca/parkmgmt/

Special Opportunities



Archaeology Day

March 28

Locations Vary

Learn about the park's archaeological and cultural heritage with scheduled programs at Tusayan Museum, Shrine of the Ages, and Verkamp's Visitor Center. Additional information available at Grand Canyon Visitor Center or Tusayan Museum.



Earth Day Festival

April 19, 10 am–2 pm

Grand Canyon Visitor Center

Join Grand Canyon National Park with special exhibitions and unique, interactive activities to celebrate the environment and all nature has to offer.



Bike the Park Week

May 18–22

Locations Vary

Join the Grand Canyon community for an hour, a day, or the entire week. In an effort to reduce automobile traffic and the park's environmental footprint, Grand Canyon's Green Team and partners offer special bicycle tours and other bike-related activities. Bring your own or rent a bicycle.



index/htm. I also encourage you to follow Grand Canyon National Park on Facebook and Twitter and consider becoming a Grand Canyon Association member.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable visit as you create wonderful new memories, and I hope you make plans to explore the over 400 national park units across the country.

Superintendent David V. Uberuaga

Grand Canyon National Park
PO Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-0129 USA

Park Headquarters

928-638-7888

Website

nps.gov/grca/



Grand Canyon National Park

Located in northern Arizona, the park encompasses 277 miles (446 km) of the Colorado River and adjacent uplands. One of the most spectacular examples of erosion anywhere in the world, Grand Canyon offers visitors incomparable vistas. Grand Canyon National Park is a World Heritage Site.

The Guide is published by Grand Canyon National Park and is supported by your fees. It is available in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean. An *Accessibility Guide* is also available.

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Discover the Canyon With Your Phone

Enjoy two-minute park ranger talks about the park's natural and cultural history at 30 different locations. Look for cell phone tour signs, dial 928-225-2907, and enter the stop number. Hosted by the Grand Canyon Association.

Explore Virtual Caches

Discover EarthCaches™ specifically tailored to geology, educational experiences, modern technology, and outdoor adventures. Stop by Grand Canyon Visitor Center or visit nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/virtual-caching.htm to get EarthCache™ information and start your adventure today. You will need your own GPS device to participate.

The Sun and Moon

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
March 1	7:00 am	6:22 pm
March 15	6:40 am	6:35 pm
April 1	6:16 am	6:49 pm
April 15	5:56 am	7:01 pm
May 1	5:37 am	7:15 pm
May 15	5:23 am	7:26 pm
June 1	5:13 am	7:39 pm

Full Moon Date Rise Time

March 5	6:42 pm
April 4	7:20 pm
May 3	7:05 pm

The North Rim

Grand Canyon's North Rim provides visitors with a tranquil experience. Open mid-May through the end of October, the North Rim is a four-hour, 215-mile (346 km) drive from Grand Canyon Village. Accommodations fill in advance; reservations strongly recommended.

Grand Canyon Lodge

877-386-4383 or www.foreverresorts.com

North Rim Campground

877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov



Be a Part of Something Grand

You can make a difference at Grand Canyon National Park!

With your help, the Grand Canyon Association (GCA) supports an impressive variety of projects and programs that ensure all visitors will enjoy the awe-inspiring wonder of Grand Canyon.

As the park's official nonprofit partner, GCA cooperates with the National Park Service to operate Park Stores in seven locations in the park. GCA Park Store purchases help fund new exhibits, scientific research, trail restoration, wildlife monitoring, ecological restoration, art programs, Junior Ranger and education programs, and historic building preservation.

Explore Grand Canyon's Wonders with the Grand Canyon Field Institute

Learn about geology, archaeology, photography, yoga, and more, during fun and informative education classes. Activities include rim walks, backpacks, and river trips. Call 866-471-4435 or visit grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute

Take Grand Canyon Home with You

Join GCA today. Members receive exclusive benefits and discounts. For information, visit a GCA Park Store, call toll-free 800-858-2808, or visit grandcanyon.org.

Park Ranger Programs

Discover Grand Canyon with free programs given by park rangers and volunteers in or near the Village. For Desert View programs, see page 8. Since parking is limited, park rangers recommend you ride the free shuttle bus to program locations. Children under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Outdoor programs may be cancelled or moved inside during inclement weather. Times are mountain standard. Check at visitor centers and hotels for additional program offerings.

Time	Program	Meeting Location	Duration/Distance	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
11 am	Fossil Walk Stroll through an ancient ocean of marine creatures. Discover the amazing world of fossils and what they reveal about Grand Canyon's history on this moderate 0.5-mile (0.8 km), one-way walk along the rim. Perfect for Junior Rangers.	Bright Angel Trailhead	60 minutes <i>No program May 5–6</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
1:30 pm	Rim Walk Explore the many wonders Grand Canyon offers. From geology to history to ecology, the stories and views are endless during this leisurely walk along the rim. Topics vary. Accessible.	Verkamp's Visitor Center	45–60 minutes <i>No program May 5–6</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
2 pm	Geology Glimpse Gain a quick insight into Grand Canyon's unique geologic story. Following the talk, consider walking the Trail of Time or exploring Yavapai Geology Museum. Accessible. Perfect for Junior Rangers.	Yavapai Geology Museum	20 minutes	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
3:30 pm	Geology Glimpse Gain a quick insight into Grand Canyon's unique geologic story. Following the talk, consider walking the Trail of Time or exploring Yavapai Geology Museum. Accessible. Perfect for Junior Rangers.	Yavapai Geology Museum	20 minutes	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Check visitor centers for information	Critter Chat Learn about Grand Canyon's diverse wild inhabitants. Accessible. Perfect for Junior Rangers.	Check visitor centers for information	30 minutes	Check visitor centers for information						
7:30 pm	Evening Program Relax in a beautiful auditorium and enjoy a presentation about Grand Canyon's fascinating natural or cultural history. Check visitor centers for topics. Accessible.	Shrine of the Ages Auditorium	60 minutes		√		√		√	
Evening	Ranger Rendezvous Discover Grand Canyon in the evening! Explore some of the park's lesser-known stories and facts. Programs include star talks, night hikes to the rim, cemetery tours, and more. Dress warmly.	Check visitor centers for information	Check visitor centers for information	√		√		√		√



Inside the Canyon

Programs begin early March

Going to Phantom Ranch or Indian Garden? Join a park ranger to discover the hidden secrets of the inner canyon. Programs cover a wide range of natural and cultural history topics. *Programs are only accessible by a long, strenuous hike or mule ride.*

Saturday to Tuesday, Times Vary

Indian Garden

Check the bulletin board for program topics, locations, and times. Wilderness Explorer Junior Ranger booklet available. Accessible only by hiking 4.5 miles (7.2 km) down Bright Angel Trail.

Daily, 4 pm and 7:30 pm

Phantom Ranch

Check bulletin boards for program locations and topics. Phantom Ranch Junior Ranger activity booklet available. Accessible only by hiking 9.5 miles (15.3 km) or riding a mule to the bottom of Grand Canyon.

Learn in an Outdoor Classroom

Teachers

Field Trips, Classroom Rangers, Distance Learning, and Teacher Workshops

Using Grand Canyon as a teaching tool, park rangers conduct curriculum-based field trips, in-class presentations, and distance learning programs for grades K–12. Students engage in real-world exploration of concepts related to geology, ecology, and human history. 928-638-7931 or nps.gov/grca/forteachers/

University Students

Grand Canyon Semester

Grand Canyon National Park partners with Northern Arizona University and Prescott College to offer a unique, semester-long program. Grand Canyon Semester immerses students in a place-based learning experience using Grand Canyon as a classroom and laboratory. Classroom academics combine with field opportunities to create an unparalleled learning environment. nau.edu/Honors/GCS/ or prescott.edu/learn/non-degree/grand-canyon-semester.html

Middle and High School Youth

Canyon Field Schools

Deepen your connection to Grand Canyon National Park. Spend one to two weeks exploring the trails, running the rapids, and camping under the stars. Canyon Field Schools is currently accepting applications from middle and high school youth for summer 2015. 928-638-7924 or nps.gov/grca/forkids/camp.htm

Youth Ages 7–14

Day Camps

April 17, 18, 24, 25, and May 1 and 2
8:30 am–2 pm

Spend a day with a park ranger learning about Grand Canyon's rocks, plants, animals, and people. This program invites visiting and local youth to explore the rim of Grand Canyon by foot and bus while being guided through fun activities. Drop off and pick up children at Park Headquarters. Bring lunch, water bottle, snacks, and sunscreen; wear sturdy shoes.

To register: 928-638-7924

Earn Your Junior Ranger Badge

Children ages four and older can pick up a free Junior Ranger booklet from any visitor center. Have fun learning about Grand Canyon by completing at least four activities and attending a park ranger program. Turn in the completed booklet at any visitor center and earn a badge and certificate. Special patches are also available for purchase at Grand Canyon Association Park Stores.

Find Junior Ranger programs at more than 250 national parks, seashores, and monuments nationwide. The Junior Ranger program is generously supported by the Grand Canyon Association.

Junior Ranger Day

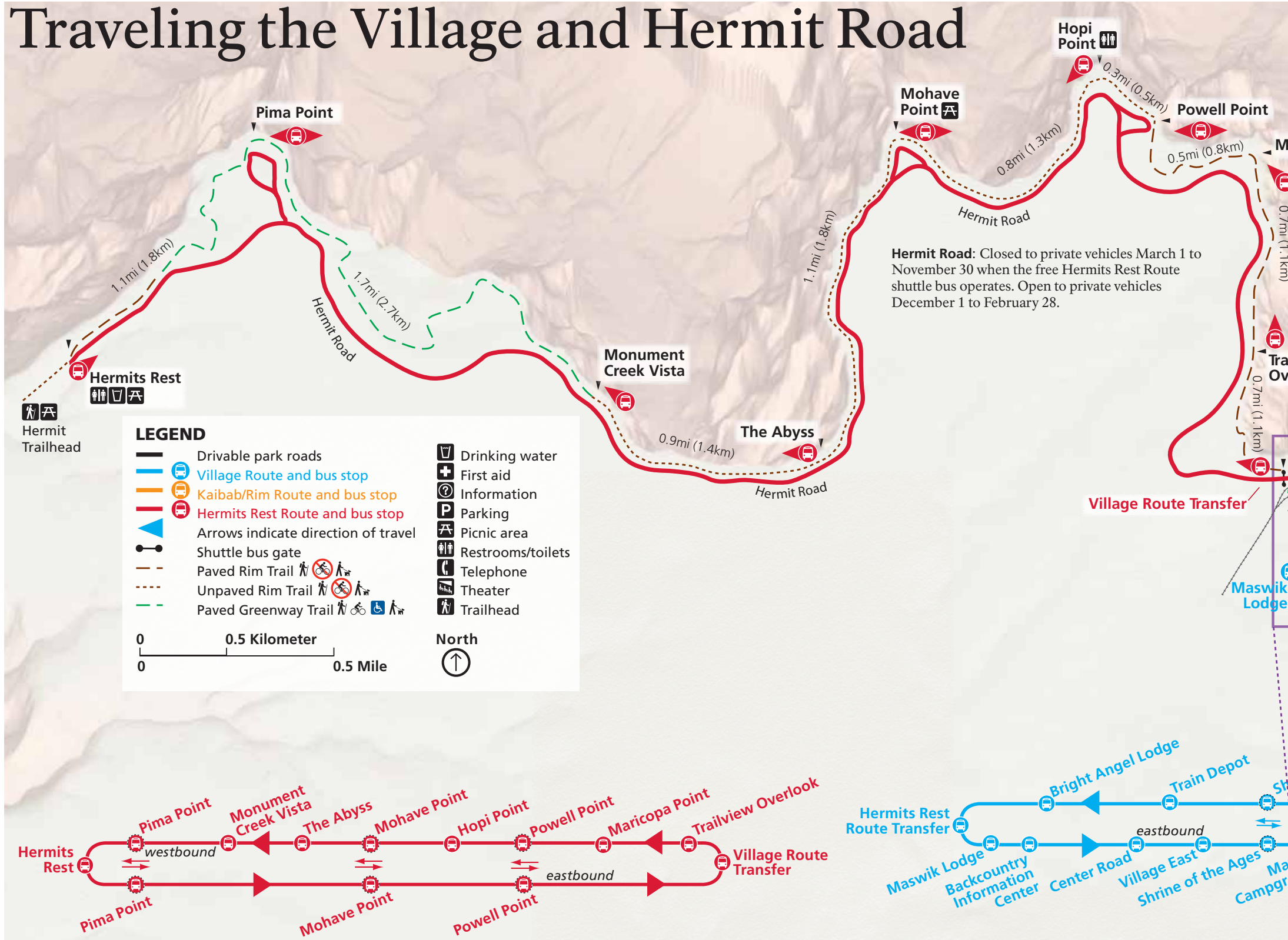
April 28

Information at Grand Canyon Visitor Center

Attend a park ranger program and receive special recognition as part of this national event.



Traveling the Village and Hermit Road



Take the Shuttle Bus to Your Destination

HERMITS REST ROUTE— RED ON MAP ABOVE

- 80 minutes round-trip
- Nine overlooks
- Toilets at Hopi Point
- Water, snack bar, toilets, and gift shop at Hermits Rest
- Schedule
 - Every 30 minutes 4:30–6:30 am
 - Every 15 minutes 6:30 am to sunset
 - Every 30 minutes sunset to an hour after sunset
 - For the last bus, be at a bus stop no later than 30 minutes after sunset. See sunset times on page 2.

VILLAGE ROUTE—BLUE ROUTE

- 50 minutes roundtrip
- Stops at Grand Canyon Visitor Center, hotels, restaurants, and campgrounds
- Grand Canyon views are a short walk from some shuttle bus stops
- Schedule
 - Every 30 minutes, 4:30–6 am
 - Every 15 minutes, 6 am–8:30 pm
 - Every 30 minutes, 8:30–10 pm
 - For the last bus, be at a bus stop no later than 9:30 pm.

KAIBAB/RIM ROUTE—ORANGE ROUTE

- 50 minutes roundtrip
- Stops at several viewpoints, Grand Canyon Visitor Center, and Yavapai Geology Museum.
- Access to South Kaibab Trailhead
- Schedule
 - Every 30 minutes, 4:30–6 am
 - Every 15 minutes, 6 am to one hour after sunset
 - For the last bus, be at a bus stop no later than 30 minutes after sunset. See sunset times on page 2.

HIKERS' EXPRESS

Express service to South Kaibab Trailhead. Shuttle bus starts at Bright Angel Lodge, then stops at the Backcountry Information Center, Grand Canyon Visitor Center, and South Kaibab Trailhead. Bus leaves Bright Angel Lodge at:

- 7 am, 8 am, and 9 am in March
- 6 am, 7 am, and 8 am in April
- 5 am, 6 am, 7 am in May

Common Shuttle Bus Questions

Are the shuttle buses free?

Yes, your entrance fee includes shuttle bus transportation—a great way to start your Grand Canyon experience.

How do the shuttle buses work?

Running like a city bus system, three shuttle bus routes access viewpoints, trails, visitor centers, lodges, restaurants, and gift shops. Just wait at any bus stop and enjoy the ride. Shuttle buses do not drive to Desert View.

How can I tell the difference between shuttle bus routes?

The front of the free, green and white shuttle bus displays the name of the route and its color.

Why is the shuttle bus not full?

To ensure room for passengers waiting at the next stops, shuttle busses do not fill at their first stop.

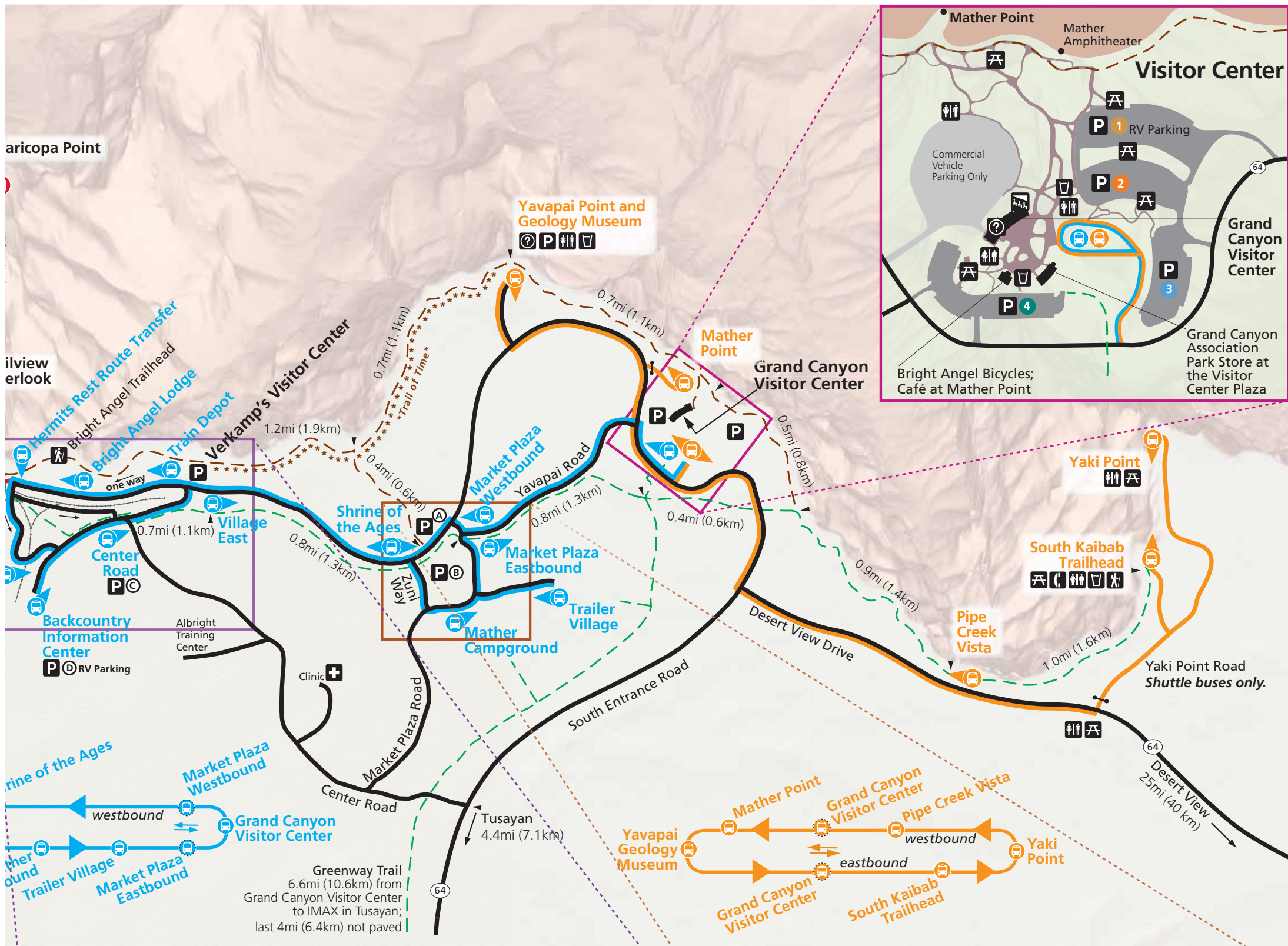
What are the shuttle bus rules?

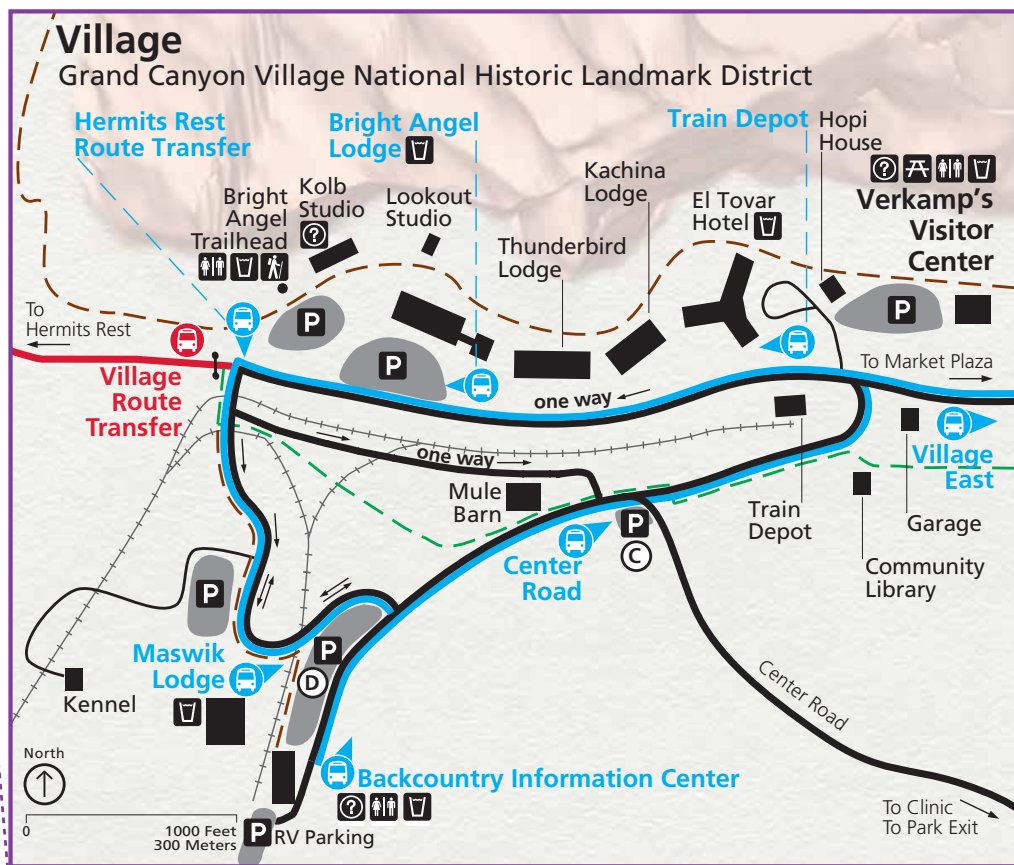
- No eating or open drink containers.
- No pets. Service animals permitted.
- Collapse strollers before entering the shuttle bus. No oversized or jogging strollers. Remove baby-back carriers when seated.
- Shuttle buses can accommodate two or three bicycles, but not tag alongs, baby trailers, or children's bicycles with wheels less than 16 inches (41 cm). Riders must load and unload their bicycles.
- Shuttle buses only stop at designated bus stops.

Will my wheelchair fit on the bus?

Shuttle buses are equipped with ramps to accommodate wheelchairs smaller than 30 inches wide by 48 inches long (76 by 122 cm). Most motorized scooters will not fit on shuttle buses.







Find food, lodging, restrooms, free drinking water, gift shops, GCA Park Stores, and an ATM in the Village.

Common Driving and Parking Questions

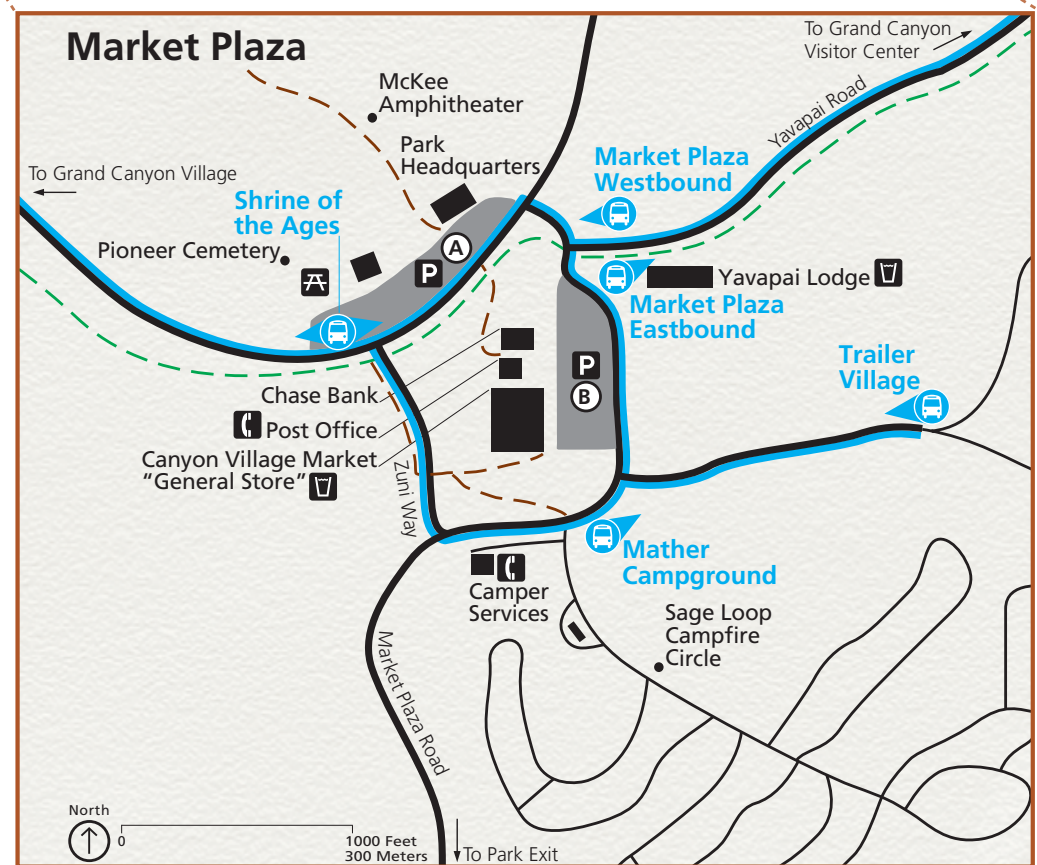
Where can I drive my car?

You can drive roads indicated by a solid black line on the maps in this newspaper. Yaki Point and Hermit roads are closed to private vehicles. To reach those areas, ride the free shuttle bus.

Where can I park?

Parking lots in the Village are located near shuttle bus stops.

- **Parking lots 1–4** Grand Canyon Visitor Center. Lot 1 includes auto, RV, and trailer parking.
- **Parking Lot A** Park Headquarters
- **Parking Lot B** Market Plaza
- **Parking Lot C** near Center Road in the Village
- **Parking Lot D** Backcountry Information Center; includes auto parking at the north end and RV and trailer parking at the south end.



Find food, lodging, camping, restrooms, free drinking water, groceries, gift shops, and an ATM at Market Plaza.

What else do I need to know about driving?

Do not stop in the road, block traffic, or park along the roadside, except where signs or lines on the road indicate it is permissible. Use pull-outs to take photos. Keep a safe distance of at least 75 feet (23 m), or about six car lengths, from wildlife.

A Scenic Drive Accessibility Permit allows visitors with mobility issues entry to some areas closed to public traffic. Obtain a permit at entrance gates and visitor centers.

Protect the Park, Protect Yourself

Please report any concerns to a park employee.

Elevation Use sunblock, stay hydrated, take your time, and rest to reduce the risk of sunburn, dehydration, nausea, shortness of breath, and exhaustion. The South Rim's high elevation (7,000 feet/2,135 m) and dry climate affects you differently than your home environment.

Drinking Water Free Grand Canyon spring water is available from bottle filling stations at major trailheads, visitor centers, grocery stores, and lodges. Bring your own or buy a reusable water bottle at Park Stores or gift shops. Stay hydrated and reduce your environmental footprint.

View Grand Canyon Safely

Stay behind railings and safety walls or at least six feet (2 m) from the edge. Hold on to children. Always be aware of your surroundings. Look first where you are stepping before backing up.

Watch Out Below

Rocks, coins, and trash tossed over the edge of Grand Canyon, and rocks dislodged by walking off trail, can injure hikers and wildlife below.

Bring Your Leashed Pet

Leashed pets are allowed on rim trails. Pets are not allowed below the rim, in buildings, or on shuttle buses. These limits do not apply to service animals. Anyone wishing to take a service animal below the rim must check in at the Backcountry Information Center.

Protect and Respect Wildlife

Approaching or feeding any animal is dangerous—both to you and the animal—and illegal.

Deer and elk: Keep a safe distance of at least 75 feet (23 m) or about six car lengths.

Squirrels: Do not feed the squirrels. They will bite and can possibly carry fleas with the plague.

California condor: Stay at least 75 feet (23 m) away from these endangered birds.

No Unmanned Aircraft

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft is prohibited inside Grand Canyon National Park.

Leave Everything You Find

Grand Canyon National Park—a World Heritage Site—belongs to everyone. Please leave rocks, plants, wood, and artifacts where you find them.

Protect the View The walls of Grand Canyon tell an amazing story. That story can be altered when you leave graffiti.

Dispose of Your Litter Help keep Grand Canyon clean by recycling and using trash receptacles.

Visitor Services

Locations shown on the maps on pages 4–5. Core operating hours listed; hours may be extended.

Food and Beverage

BRIGHT ANGEL BICYCLES

Café at Mather Point Grab-and-go food and espresso bar. 7 am–6 pm

BRIGHT ANGEL LODGE

The Arizona Room Lunch opens March 14, 11:30 am–3 pm; dinner 4:30–10 pm, reservations not accepted; lounge 4:30–10 pm

Bright Angel Coffee House 6–10 am

Bright Angel Ice Cream Fountain 11 am–5 pm, weather permitting

Bright Angel Breakfast 6:30–10:45 am; lunch 11:15 am–4 pm; dinner 4:30–10 pm

Bright Angel Lounge 11 am–11 pm

Services

ATM Chase Bank and Maswik Lodge

Canyon Village Market "General Store" Groceries, supplies, and gifts. 8 am–8 pm

Chase Bank Monday to Thursday 9 am–5 pm; Friday 9 am–6 pm. 928-638-2437

Garage Emergency repairs and tow service. 8 am to noon and 1–5 pm. 928-638-2631

Kaibab Learning Center Day care for one to 12 year olds; immunization records required. Monday to Friday, 7:30 am–5:30 pm. 928-638-

Lodging

Bright Angel Lodge, El Tovar Hotel, Kachina Lodge, Maswik Lodge, and Thunderbird Lodge Prices range from \$96–466; same-day reservations: 928-638-2631; advance reservations: 888-297-2757 or grandcanyonlodges.com

Yavapai Lodge Opens March 6; prices range from \$142–178; reservations: 877-404-4611 or visitgrandcanyon.com

Phantom Ranch Meals, hiker dormitory, and cabin space located at the bottom of the canyon. Next-day reservations: 928-638-3283; advance reservations: 888-297-2757

Tours and Trips

Bright Angel Bicycles Bicycle, wheelchair, and stroller rentals, guided tours twice daily, and repair/parts. 9 am–5 pm. 928-638-3055 or bikegrandcanyon.com

Xanterra Transportation Desks Arrange tours and trips at Bright Angel Lodge 6 am–8 pm; Maswik Lodge 6 am–6:30 pm

Xanterra Bus Tours Daily departures for sunrise and sunset viewing and to Desert View Watchtower and Hermits Rest. Reserve at El Tovar Hotel concierge desk or transportation desks. 928-638-2631 or grandcanyonlodges.com

Bright Angel Lounge 11 am–11 pm

CANYON VILLAGE MARKET

Canyon Village Deli 8 am–6 pm

EL TOVAR HOTEL

El Tovar Breakfast 6:30–10:45 am; lunch 11:15 am–2 pm; dinner 5–10 pm, reservations recommended, 928-638-2631, ext. 6432

El Tovar Lounge 11 am–11 pm

HERMITS REST

Hermits Rest Snack Bar 9 am–5 pm

MASWIK LODGE

Maswik Food Court 6 am–10 pm

Maswik Pizza Pub 11 am–11 pm

YAVAPAI LODGE

Yavapai Canyon Cafe Opens approximately May 6, 6 am–9 pm

Yavapai Lounge Opens approximately May 6, 11 am–10 pm

Books and Gifts

Bright Angel Lodge 7 am–10 pm

El Tovar Hotel 7 am–10 pm

Grand Canyon Association Park Stores

at **Kolb Studio** 8 am–7 pm

at **Verkamp's Visitor Center** 8 am–7 pm

at **Visitor Center Plaza** 8 am–7 pm

at **Yavapai Geology Museum** 8 am–7 pm

Hermits Rest Gift Shop 9 am–5 pm

Hopi House 9 am–5 pm

Lookout Studio 9 am–5 pm

Maswik Lodge 7 am–10 pm

Yavapai Gift Shop Opens approximately March 31, 8 am–8 pm

Monday to Friday, 7:30 am–5:30 pm; 928-638-6333

Kennel Dogs and cats need proof of vaccinations, 7:30 am–5 pm, 928-638-0534
For retrieval after 5 pm: 928-638-2631

Lost and Found 928-638-7798; 928-638-2631

Post Office Monday to Friday 9 am–4:30 pm; Saturday 11 am–1 pm; closed Sunday and federal holidays. 928-638-2512

Religious Services See schedules at Mather Campground, Shrine of the Ages, Grand Canyon Post Office, Grand Canyon Visitor Center, and Park Headquarters

Taxi Service in Village and Tusayan. 928-638-2822

WiFi and Public Computer Access

Park Headquarters: Free WiFi 8 am–5 pm, Monday to Friday, except federal holidays. Computers available in the research library 8 am–4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, except federal holidays

Community Library: Free WiFi and computers available, 10:30 am–5 pm, Monday to Saturday
Hotel Lobbies: WiFi available 24 hours a day; fees may be charged

Canyon Village Market: WiFi; see hours above

Camping

Mather Campground (National Park Service)

\$18 per night family site; \$50 per night group sight; \$25 per night horse site. No hook-ups; dump station nearby. Maximum vehicle length 30 feet (9.1 m). Reservations: recreation.gov or 877-444-6777.

Yavapai RV Park

\$36 per night for two people; \$3.50 for each additional person over age 16. Pull-through sites with hookups; dump station nearby. Kiosk: 8 am–5 pm. Same-day reservations: 928-638-3047. Advance reservations: 877-404-4611 or visitgrandcanyon.com.

Laundry and Showers at Camper Services

8 am–6 pm, last laundry wash 4:45 pm

desks, 928-638-2631, or grandcanyonlodges.com

Xanterra Mule Trips Overnight trips to Phantom Ranch depart daily. A two-hour Canyon Vista ride along the rim departs twice daily. Inquire at Bright Angel or Maswik transportation desks or call 928-638-3283.

River Rafting

SMOOTH-WATER RAFT TRIPS

OUTSIDE THE PARK

Colorado River Discovery

888-522-6644 or www.raftthecanyon.com

WHITEWATER RAFT TRIPS

INSIDE THE PARK

nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/whitewater-rafting.htm

Additional Resources

Arizona Highway Information Dial 511 or 888-411-ROAD or visit az511.gov

Grand Canyon Chamber of Commerce

844-638-2901, www.grandcanyoncvb.org

Kaibab National Forest Tusayan Ranger District ranger station, 8 am–4:30 pm, Monday to Friday. 928-638-2443

Day Hikes Below the Rim

A day hike into Grand Canyon affords an unparalleled experience. Knowledge, preparation, and a good plan are all keys to success. Consider purchasing a trail guide at a GCA Park Store before venturing down the trail. Gauge your fitness level, be honest about your health, and don't compare yourself to five years ago. Know your limits and avoid spontaneity—Grand Canyon is an extreme environment!

Park rangers say "going down is optional, but coming up is mandatory." Plan to take twice as long to hike up as it took to hike down. *Stay together, follow your plan, and know where and how to seek help.*

Backcountry Camping Permits

You must obtain a permit from the Backcountry Information Center to camp anywhere in the park other than in a developed campground on the South Rim. A limited number of last minute walk-up permits are available.

For additional information about day and overnight hiking, visit the Backcountry Information Center or nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/backcountry.htm.



Trail	Destination	Distance Roundtrip	Difficulty	Elevation Change From the Rim	Time Roundtrip	Facilities
Bright Angel Trail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows the Bright Angel Fault down Garden Creek Canyon on a well-maintained trail North-facing trail can accumulate ice and snow becoming treacherous Ride the Village Route shuttle bus to access Water and toilets available at trailhead Water not always available at Indian Garden and seasonal locations due to pipeline breaks or repairs work—check at Backcountry Information Center before descending Always bring a method to treat water 	Upper Tunnel	0.4 miles (0.6 km)	easy	60 feet (20 m)	20 minutes	none
	Lower Tunnel	1.7 miles (2.8 km)	moderate	590 feet (180 m)	1–2 hours	none
	1½-Mile Resthouse	3 miles (4.8 km)	moderate	1,120 feet (340 m)	2–4 hours	toilets, seasonal water, emergency phone
	3-Mile Resthouse	6 miles (9.6 km)	difficult	2,120 feet (645 m)	4–6 hours	toilets, seasonal water, emergency phone
	Indian Garden	9 miles (14.4 km)	very difficult	3,040 feet (925 m)	6–9 hours	water, toilets, ranger station, camping, emergency phone
	Plateau Point	12 miles (19.3 km)	very difficult	3,080 feet (940 m)	9–12 hours	seasonal water
South Kaibab Trail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows an exposed ridge line on a well-maintained trail; best views during a relatively short hike but can accumulate ice and snow. Ride the Kaibab/Rim Route or Hikers' Express shuttle bus Water, toilets, and pay phone located at trailhead 	Ooh Aah Point	1.8 miles (2.9 km)	moderate	760 feet (230 m)	1–2 hours	none
	Cedar Ridge	3 miles (4.8 km)	difficult	1,120 feet (340 m)	2–4 hours	toilets
	Skeleton Point	6 miles (9.6 km)	very difficult	2,040 feet (620 m)	4–6 hours	none
Hermit Trail and Dripping Spring Trail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers intimate views of a long side canyon Rough and unmaintained—for experienced desert hikers only Begins west of Hermits Rest; ride the Hermits Rest Route shuttle bus Water and toilets available at Hermits Rest 	Hermit Basin	2.8 miles (4.5 km)	difficult	1,240 feet (380 m)	2–4 hours	none
	Santa Maria Spring	5 miles (8 km)	very difficult	1,680 feet (510 m)	4–6 hours	must treat water
	Dripping Spring	7 miles (11.3 km)	very difficult	1,040 feet (315 m)	5–7 hours	must treat water

9 Essentials for Your Day Pack

Water At least two liters of water depending on hike intensity and duration. Eat and drink while resting; sip fluids while hiking. Always bring a method to treat water.

Food Salty snacks and a full meal. Eat often, even if you are not hungry. Snack every time you hydrate.

First Aid Kit and Survival Tools Also include medications, blister care, and duct tape.

Map Know your route. Many trails are well marked, but some are not.

Flashlight or Headlamp You may end up hiking in the dark unexpectedly; cell phones do not provide adequate light.

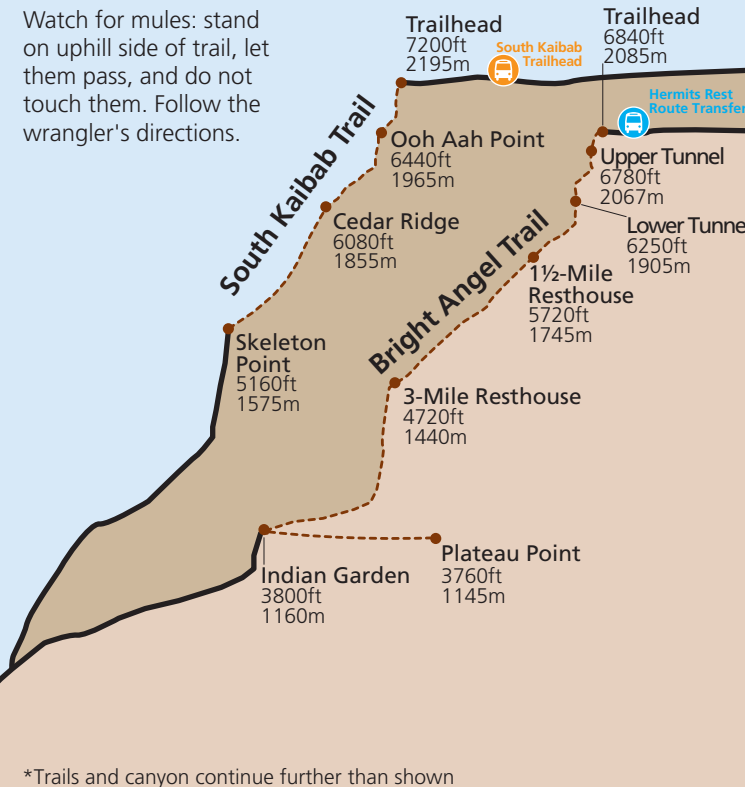
Sun Protection Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, and a sun umbrella.

Communication Whistle or signal mirror; while cell phones are not reliable, they may be helpful.

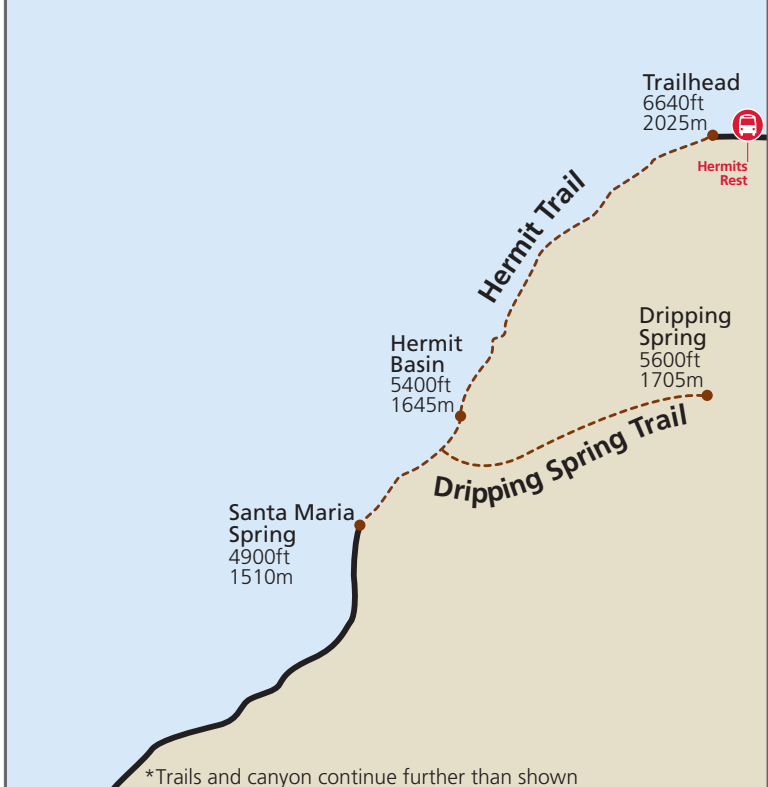
Simple Shelters Emergency tarp with reflective side.

Weather-appropriate Clothing and Footwear Layer for the weather, protect yourself from the sun, and wear hiking boots with good soles. Remember that the weather can change suddenly.

South Kaibab Trail, Bright Angel Trail Profiles*



Hermit Trail, Dripping Spring Trail Profiles*



4 Dangerous Health Risks

Common Challenges Any activity at high elevation and in a dry environment can bring your body past its limits, exacerbate medical conditions or current illnesses, and harm you due to a lack of regular exercise.

Heat-related Illnesses Beware of over-exposure to hot, dry weather. Rest in the shade, hydrate, and eat high-energy foods. *If the weather is hot, start and finish your hike before 10 am or after 4 pm. Do not hike during the heat of the day.*

Hyponatremia This common hiking illness occurs from overhydration and low salt ingestion during a strenuous hike—a deadly condition if ignored. Balance hydration with salty snacks, eat a well-rounded lunch, and rest frequently.

Over Exertion When looking from the rim into Grand Canyon everything looks close—but it is not! Know your limits, pace yourself, and take a 5- to 10-minute break every hour. If you are not feeling well, rest at least 30 minutes. Turn around on your hike before you feel tired.

Warning!

Hiking to the river and back in one day is not recommended due to long distances, extreme temperature changes, and a near 5,000-foot (1,500 m) elevation change each way. If you think you have the fitness and experience to attempt this *extremely strenuous* hike, please seek the advice of a park ranger at the Backcountry Information Center.

No Swimming The Colorado River is fast, wide, and a cold 46°F (8°C) year-round. Do not swim in the river—you will perish!



Desert View

Core operating hours listed; hours may be extended.

Books and Gifts

Desert View Trading Post 9 am–6 pm

Grand Canyon Association Park Stores

Desert View Watchtower 8 am to 30 minutes before sunset. See page 2 for sunset times.

Tusayan Museum and Ruin 9 am–5 pm

Food and Beverage

Desert View Snack Bar 9 am–5 pm; located in Desert View Trading Post

Services

Desert View Market 9 am–6 pm

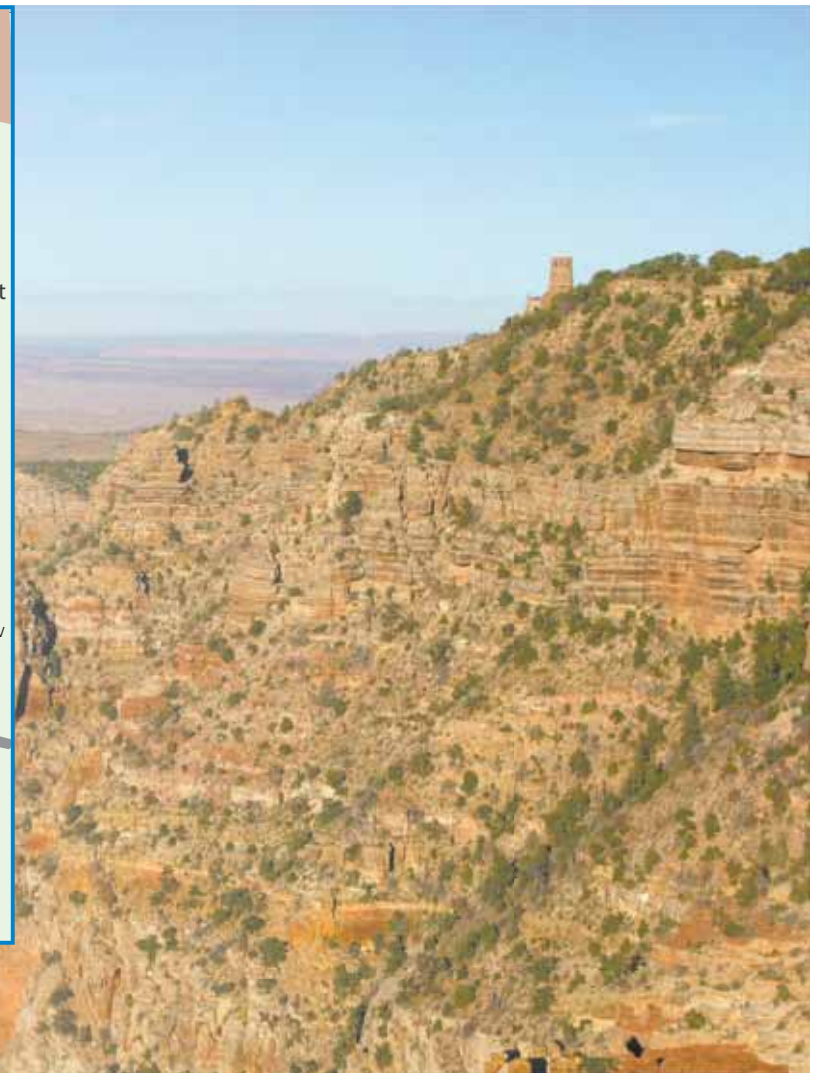
Desert View Service Station Opens March 9, 9 am–5 pm; fuel, including diesel, available 24 hours a day with credit card

Camping

Desert View Campground (National Park Service) Opens April 19; \$12/night; no hookups; maximum vehicle length 30 feet (9.1 m); first-come, first-served self registration.

Park Ranger Programs

Enjoy special programs at Tusayan Museum as staffing allows. Check at museum for information.



Walk the Rim Trail

The Rim Trail stretches from South Kaibab Trailhead to Hermits Rest. It offers a diverse hiking experience along 13 miles (21 km) of the canyon, shown by brown and green dashed lines on the map on pages 4–5. Choose your adventure, from a short sunrise walk

to a full afternoon hike. The Rim Trail is wheelchair-accessible from Lookout Studio to South Kaibab Trailhead. Ride the free shuttle bus and add variety into your Rim Trail adventure by walking one way and riding back. Distances below are one way.

Difficulty	Start	Finish	Distance	Attraction
Easy, popular Wide, paved trail; accessible for strollers and wheelchairs with assistance	Mather Point	Yavapai Point	0.7 miles (1.1 km)	View of Colorado River and Phantom Ranch
	Yavapai Geology Museum	Verkamp's Visitor Center	1.3 miles (2.1 km)	Touch rocks from all of Grand Canyon's layers along the award-winning Trail of Time
	Verkamp's Visitor Center	Kolb Studio	0.6 miles (1 km)	Explore local history in the village historic district
Easy, Less Traveled Little elevation gain	South Kaibab Trailhead	Mather Point	2.1 miles (3.4 km)	Great views of a trail going down into Grand Canyon; paved
	Monument Creek Vista	Hermits Rest	2.8 miles (4.5 km)	Quiet and less crowded with forest and canyon views; paved
	Hopi Point	Powell Point	0.3 miles (0.5 km)	Expansive east and west views of Grand Canyon; unpaved
Moderate Some elevation gain and/or rough terrain	Mohave Point	Monument Creek Vista	2.0 miles (3.2 km)	Unpaved trail with great views
	Hermits Rest Route Transfer	Trailview Overlook	0.7 miles (1.1 km)	Views of the Village and Bright Angel Trail; paved, steep grade

Pedaling the Park

Bicycle along the canyon rim and through peaceful forest scenery by following the green dashed lines on the map on pages 4–5. Bicycles are only permitted on the Greenway Trail, paved roads, and dirt roads open to vehicles. Bicycles are prohibited on the Rim Trail and trails down into Grand Canyon. Consider riding your bicycle one way and riding the shuttle bus back.

Obey all traffic regulations, ride single file with the flow of traffic, and wear bright colors and a helmet. Watch for ice on all roads and trails. ***On Yaki Point and Hermit roads, bicyclists must pull to the right shoulder and dismount when a shuttle bus passes.***

Did you know?

A four-mile (6.4 km) bicycle trip keeps approximately 15 pounds (6.8 kg) of vehicle pollutants out of the air we breathe.

